

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 01444 301152Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 /082 W
-----017346 310612Z /12

R 301925Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7594
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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3.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, SHUM, SF
SUBJECT: CHARGES DROPPED AGAINST CLERICS

REF: CAPE TOWN 1428

1. REFTEL REPORTED THAT ABEL HENDRICKS, HEAD OF METHODIST CHURCH IN SOUTH AFRICA, HAD RECEIVED COURT SUMMONS FOR ATTENDING AN ILLEGAL GATHERING. IT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT THREE OTHER CLERICS AND A CROSSROADS COMMUNITY LEADER WHO SPOKE AT JULY 30 CROSSROADS DAY OF PRAYER HAD RECEIVED SIMILAR SUMMONS.
2. YESTERDAY THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL OF THE CAPE WITHDREW CHARGES AGAINST ALL FIVE CROSSROADS SPEAKERS, BECAUSE "PROSECUTION WAS NOT IN MY VIEW WARRANTED IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE."
3. COMMENT: THIS ON-AGAIN, OFF-AGAIN BEHAVIOR BY THE AUTHORITIES WITH RESPECT TO PROSECUTING DAY OF PRAYER SPEAKERS PROBABLY REFLECTS DESIRE TO MINIMIZE HARMFUL INTERNATIONAL

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PUBLICITY THAT TRIAL OF THE CLERICS WOULD HAVE ENGENDERED. WHEN SEVERAL CLERICS INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD RATHER STAND TRIAL THAN PAY ADMISSION OF GUILT FINES, AUTHORITIES BACKED DOWN.

ALTERNATIVE, PRESUMABLY, WOULD HAVE BEEN TO CLEARLY PROVE THAT DAY OF PRAYER WAS A POLITICAL, NOT RELIGIOUS, MEETING. CLERGY WERE PREPARED TO CONTEST THIS POINT,

AND ARGUE THAT THE GATHERING WAS LEGAL UNDER A BLANKET
WAIVER FOR OUTDOOR SPORTING AND RELIGIOUS GATHERINGS
FROM PROVISIONS OF RIOTOUS ASSEMBLIES ACT.

4. DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.
AHLGREN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Concepts: COURT DECISIONS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Litigation History:
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